

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application. Claims 13-22 and 27-31 are pending. Claims 13, 18, and 27 have been amended. No claims have been canceled or added.

Claims 13, 15-17, 27, and 29-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Nishio (US 5521732). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. Claim 13 as amended sets forth:

an optical transceiver, detachably coupled to the WSM, to send a first optical signal to the WSM and to detect a second optical signal received from the WSM after sending the first optical signal, wherein the optical transceiver comprises an encoder to put an identification into the first optical signal to send with the first optical signal to the WSM, and wherein *the WSM is operable to send an interrupt in response to detection of a change in the first optical signal received from the optical transceiver*, (Claim 13 as amended; emphasis added)

In contrast, Nishio fails to disclose that the WSM is operable to send an interrupt in response to detection of a change in the first optical signal received from the optical transceiver. According to the Office Action, the control circuit 370 in Nishio selects an optical packet signal from one of the work stations and determines the corresponding ACK signal or NACK signal in response to the workstation identification in the headers in the event of a collision, and the Office Action argued that the collision in Nishio is a situation of an interrupt as claimed (Office Action, p. 3). According to Nishio, the collision happens when multiple signals are destined to the same work station (Nishio, col. 6, ln. 31-35). The collision in Nishio does not involve a change in an individual optical signal. In contrast, claim 13 as amended sets forth that the interrupt is sent “in response to detection of *a change in the first optical signal* received from the optical transceiver.” Therefore, Nishio fails to disclose at least the above feature as set forth in

claim 13 as amended. For at least this reason, Nishio fails to anticipate claim 13 as amended. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 27 as amended is not anticipated by Nishio for at least the reason discussed above with respect to claim 13. Claims 15-17 and 29-31 depend from claims 13 and 27, respectively, and thus, are not anticipated by Nishio. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 18 and 20-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nishio (US 5521732) in view of Flauaus et al. (US 20050108444 A1). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. Claim 18 as amended sets forth that the WSM is operable to send an interrupt “in response to detection of a change in the first optical signal received from the optical transceiver.” For the reason discussed above with respect to claim 13, Nishio fails to teach the above limitation. Furthermore, Flauaus also fails to teach the above limitation. Flauaus discloses a system for detecting, monitoring, reporting, and managing congestion in a fabric at the port and fabric levels, and Flauaus’s system includes multi-port switches in the fabric with port controllers that collect port traffic statistics. (Flauaus, Abstract). Flauaus fails to cure the deficiencies of Nishio because Flauaus fails to teach the above-mentioned feature that Nishio fails to disclose. Because neither Nishio nor Flauaus, alone or in combination, teaches all limitations set forth in claim 18, claim 18 is patentable over Nishio in view of Flauaus. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 20-22 depend from claim 18, and thus, are patentable over Nishio in view of Flauaus for at least the reason discussed above with respect to claim 18. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 14 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nishio (US 5521732) in view of Chbat et al. (US 6810214 B2). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. Claims 14 and 28 depend from claims 13 and 27, respectively, and thus, include all limitations set forth in their respective base claims. For the reason discussed above with respect to claims 13 and 27, Nishio fails to teach that the WSM is operable to send an interrupt “in response to detection of a change in the first optical signal received from the optical transceiver.” Moreover, Chbat fails to make up the deficiencies of Nishio. Chbat discloses a system operable to reduce degradation of an optical signal to noise ratio. (Chbat, Abstract). Chbat does not teach a WSM operable to send an interrupt in response to detection of a change in the first optical signal received from the optical transceiver. Because neither Nishio nor Chbat, alone or in combination, teaches all limitations set forth in claims 14 and 28, claims 14 and 28 are patentable over Nishio in view of Chbat. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nishio (US 5521732) in view of Flauaus et al. (US 20050108444 A1) and further in view of Chbat et al. (US 6810214 B2). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. Claim 19 depends from claim 18, and thus, includes all limitations set forth in claim 18. For the reason discussed above with respect to claim 18, neither Nishio nor Flauaus teaches a WSM operable to send an interrupt in response to detection of a change in the first optical signal received from the optical transceiver. Furthermore, Chbat also fails to teach a WSM operable to send an interrupt in response to detection of a change in the first optical signal received from the optical transceiver for the reason discussed above with respect to claims 14 and 28. Because none of Nishio, Flauaus, and Chbat, alone or in combination,

teaches all limitations set forth in claim 19, claim 19 is patentable over Nishio, Flauaus, and Chbat. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

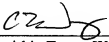
CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections have been overcome by the amendments and the remarks, and that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the rejections be withdrawn and the pending claims be allowed.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a)(3), Applicants hereby request and authorize the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to (1) treat any concurrent or future reply that requires a petition for extension of time as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time and (2) charge all required fees, including extension of time fees and fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 and 1.17, to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
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